

A Review of Frameworks, Analytical Tools and Remaining Knowledge Gaps in Agricultural Extension

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Is there a lack of framework,
analytical approaches and tools in
agricultural extension?



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Examples of frameworks and analytical approaches on extension

- Framework building on welfare economics and focusing on public good characteristics of extension (Anderson and Feder, 2004)
- Best-fit framework (Birner et al., 2009)
- Systemic framework focusing on micro- (institutional), meso- (national) and macro- (international) levels of analysis (Azadi and Filson, 2009)
- Policy process as complex organizational systems (Sandall et al., 2011)
- Policy systems analysis and mediation (PSAM) communication-based analytical approach applied to innovation systems (Morriss et al., 2006)
- Sustainable livelihoods approach (Adato and Meinzen-Dick, 2002)
- Political-economy framework on decentralization processes (Rondinelli et al., 1989)
- Contingent valuation approach farmers' willingness-to-pay (e.g., Saravanan and Veerabhadraiah, 2003; Foti et al., 2007)

Examples of frameworks and analytical approaches on extension (2)

- Social learning; actor-network theory
- Theory of collective action
- Institutional analysis and development (IAD) framework
- Structure-conduct-performance approach (innovation platforms)
- Agricultural innovation system perspective
- Shift from a linear model communication to intermediary processes
- Integrating competency-based learning and capacity development concepts
- Social psychology (changes in social relations & institutional processes)

Do we know enough or is there a lack of assessment and impact evaluations to judge best-fit or good practice?

- **A few studies on assessing governance structure**
 - Impact evaluation of national programs and institutional reforms (Benin et al., 2011, on Uganda NAADS; Swanson et al. 2012; Raabe, 2008, on India ATMA)
 - Privatization and decentralization (Rivera and Zijp, 2002; Kidd et al, 2000; Swanson and Samy, 2002; Anderson and Feeder, 2004)
 - Farmer-led or community-based extension systems (e.g., Islam, et al. 2011a, 2011b, Wellard et al., 2013; review by Feder et al., 2010)
- **Frequent studies on assessment of advisory methods/tools**
 - Farmer field school
 - Social networks; group-based extension
 - Training and visit (T&V); effect of extension visit to farm performance
 - Farmers as extension agents
 - ICT-based agricultural extension

Do we know enough or is there a lack of assessment and comparative analysis on what works and does not work?

- Research needed for more rigorous evaluation and comparative analyses
- Assessments needed not only on causal impact, but also on mechanisms, complementary or substitutability of approaches, suitability of approach based on types of information, demand for service, replicability, scalability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness
- Research needed on what mix of capacities and skills, and on how to strengthen institutional capacity in extension
- Assessment and impact evaluation needed for training and capacity development programs for agricultural extension